

Soviet to Cuban Leaders

Moscow in Spanish to South America 2300 GMT 31 December 1961--E

(Text) Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev sent the following telegram to Dr. Fidel Castro, premier of Cuba, and to President Osvaldo Dorticos:

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the victory of the glorious Cuban revolution and also on the occasion of the new year, we send to you and to all the heroic people of Cuba cordial congratulations and our best wishes. After dislodging the hated and bloody dictatorship, the Cuban people have defended the gains of the revolution under difficult conditions. They have strengthened the independence of the nation and have achieved considerable successes in the creation of a new and genuinely free society in their country.

The Cuban workers, closely united around their government led by the courageous patriot and revolutionary Fidel Castro, are keeping a strict vigil over their freedom and their independence. Everyone recalls the days when the valiant armed forces and the people's militia of revolutionary Cuba dealt a crushing blow in April 1961 at Giron Beach to the bands of imperialist mercenaries who attacked the sacred soil of Cuba. There is no doubt that any new attempt to organize an armed attack on free Cuba is doomed to an inevitable total defeat. The international prestige of the Republic of Cuba has increased many times. Cuba's actions against imperialism and colonialism for the guarantee of a firm peace and peaceful coexistence have won for it the profound respect and warm sympathy of all its peace-loving friends.

The Soviet people have great respect for and sincerely rejoice over revolutionary Cuba's admirable achievements, and they admire the singular heroism of the Cuban people in the struggle for the independence and freedom of their country. In this noble cause the Cuban people can count upon the fraternal assistance and firm support of the people of the USSR.

We point out with great satisfaction that a true and fraternal friendship has been established between our nations and a fruitful cooperation is being developed. President Osvaldo Dorticos' visit to the Soviet Union in 1961 was a new contribution to the development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba. Dear friends, with all our hearts we wish you and all the working people of Cuba happiness and success in the building of a socialist society in the new year 1962.

5 January 1962

One cannot but agree with those American newspapers which write that the conference in Punta Del Este will be "very important." Indeed, much depends on the outcome of the conference.

The future of Latin America depends on the road that will be chosen by its peoples. The United States is out to get a mandate at Punta Del Este to crush Cuba. But Cuba's cause is the cause of all the peoples of Latin America, and they are in a position to frustrate Washington's aggressive designs against the Cuban revolution, which ushered in a new era in the history of the western hemisphere, an era of national and social liberation of its peoples.